

NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MINUTES

January 25, 2016

The Norman Human Rights Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Municipal Complex located at 201 W. Gray Street on January 25, 2016, at 5:37 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were duly posted 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioners Daniel Dukes, Kirsten T. Edwards, Kay Ham, Amyie Kao, Lucy Mahaffey, Marjaneh Seirafi-Pour, and Harry Wright

ABSENT: Commissioners Jose Dela Cruz and Mary Lou Drywater

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Bell, Jayme Rowe, Officer Ali Jaffery

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Item 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE JANUARY 25, 2016, MEETING.

Commissioner Kao moved to approve the agenda of the January 25, 2016, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Dukes, and the question being approving the agenda of the January 25, 2016, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dukes, Edwards, Ham, Kao, Seirafi-Pour and Wright

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the agenda of the January 25, 2016, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission was approved.

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Item 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2015, NORMAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING.

Commissioner Wright moved that the minutes of the October 26, 2015, Human Rights Commission meeting be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Seirafi-Pour, and the question being approving the minutes of the October 26, 2015 meeting, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dukes, Edwards, Ham, Kao, Seirafi-Pour and Wright

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the October 26, 2015, meeting were approved.

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Item 4, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2016, MAYOR'S INTERFAITH BREAKFAST.

Commissioner Wright moved that the minutes of the January 18, 2016, Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Seirafi-Pour, and the question being approving the minutes of the Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast of January 18, 2016, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dukes, Edwards, Ham, Kao, Seirafi-Pour and Wright

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried; and the minutes of the 2016 Mayor's Interfaith Breakfast were approved

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Item 5, being:

INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS.

Kristina Bell, Assistant City Attorney and legal advisor to the Commission, suggested moving this item to a later point in the Agenda since one of the new Commissioners was running late and not yet at the meeting.

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Item 6, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL ON THE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELD OCTOBER 1, 2015.

The Commission discussed the report. The Chair thanked Commissioner Dukes for drafting the report and all Commissioners agreed that it was an accurate representation of the comments made by the participants. Commissioner Seirafi-Pour commented that she thought the report and included action plan were very good. The Chair commented that, while the number of participants might have been low, the dialogue was very interesting and worthwhile.

Commissioner Mahaffey asked about previous ICDs, particularly if there had been a previous ICD on the topic of Domestic Violence. She also had some suggestions regarding format and tools to encourage participation. Commissioner Edwards asked if any comments had been shared at the ICD regarding domestic violence in the transgender community. The Chair responded that there were no specific transgender comments at the ICD, although information and statistics were shared at the ICD regarding same sex domestic violence.

The Chair and Commissioner Seirafi-Pour gave a brief history on previous ICDs held by the Human Rights Commission and reports presented to Council on those topics. The Chair also reiterated that the ICDs were open to the public and Commissioner Seirafi-Pour commented that the Human Rights Commission's role was to decide on a topic of interest to the community and report the findings to the City Council. Commissioner Edwards asked if the Commission ever partnered with other agencies and the Chair responded that other agencies were invited to attend and participate, but the Human Rights Commission was the hosting entity.

Commissioner Kao moved that the 2015 Inclusive Community Report and Action Plan for presentation to City Council be approved, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Wright, and the question being approving the 2015 Inclusive Community Dialogue Report and Action Plan for presentation to City Council, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS:	Commissioners Dukes, Edwards, Ham, Kao, Mahaffey, Seirafi-Pour and Wright
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NAYES:	None
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The Chair declared the motion carried; and the 2015 Inclusive Community Dialogue Report and Action Plan was approved and will be prepared for presentation for City Council in February.

Following the vote, Commissioner Wright asked about further research into the ICD topic and asked how this Commission might be able to address the source of the domestic violence issue. Commissioner Edwards mentioned resources and information available in the post-secondary arena. Discussion was held regarding the scope of this Commission.

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Item 5, being:

INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS.

At this time, the Chair requested that the Commission return to Item 5 on the Agenda and introduced the new Commissioners, Kirsten T. Edwards and Lucy Mahaffey. Ms. Bell presented a packet of information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Human Rights Commission and the Commissioners appointed by the Mayor to serve on the Commission. She provided copies of past proclamations, ICD reports, Interfaith Breakfast programs and other information of interest to the new Commissioners. She also explained the City's Ethics Policy which applies to appointees of all Boards, Commissions, and Committees of the City of Norman.

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Item 7, being:

REPORT ON 2016 INTERFAITH BREAKFAST.

The Commission discussed the attendance, Dr. Kimball's presentation, the venue, and other topics related to the 2016 Interfaith Breakfast. Over 200 citizens attended the Breakfast this year, which is the largest number of attendees in the history of the Interfaith Breakfast. There were several good suggestions for the 2017 Interfaith Breakfast, such as contacting youth groups associated with the local faith community to speak or perform and exploring different catering options. The Chair reported on one concern that had been voiced by a citizen regarding the lack of public transportation on the holiday. She has discovered that ABLE can schedule transportation on holidays with notice.

The opinion of the Commission was that the 2016 Interfaith Breakfast was successful and planning for the 2017 Interfaith Breakfast will begin at the July meeting.

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Item 8, being:

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FUTURE PROCLAMATIONS.

The Chair reminded the Commission that the Proclamation for Black History Month will be presented at the January 26, 2016 City Council meeting. She mentioned that Norris. G. Williams, Retired OU Coordinator of Black Student Affairs and Diversity Enrichment and Director of the Henderson Scholars Program, will be accepting the Proclamation and encouraged all other Commissioners to attend the City Council meeting on January 26th.

Following discussion regarding the upcoming Black History Month Proclamation, the Commission discussed future Proclamations they would like to see requested. Commissioner Mahaffey discussed Human Trafficking Awareness Month for January, 2017. A suggestion was made regarding Women's History Month which is in March. Commissioner Wright moved that a draft of a Proclamation honoring Women's History Month be prepared and presented to the Major for the February 23, 2016 City Council meeting, which motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Edwards. A vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS: Commissioners Dukes, Edwards, Ham, Kao, Mahaffey, Seirafi-Pour and Wright

NAYES: None

The Chair declared the motion carried and the Chair and Commissioner Wright volunteered to work on drafting the Proclamation.

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Item 9, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

At this time, the Chair recognized a guest, Jermaine Peterson. Following his introduction and since there were two new Commissioners to the group, all Commissioners introduced themselves and shared some of their background and interest in human rights.

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Item 10, being:

ADJOURNMENT.

After asking for additional discussion and hearing none, the Chair declared the January 25, 2016, meeting of the Norman Human Rights Commission adjourned at 6:58 p.m.